

Message Text

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AMEMBASS OSLO

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBSSY REYKJVAIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2368

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PFOR, P, DA

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN

1. I CALLED ON PRIMIN JORGENSEN AUGUST 18 TO REVIEW EVENTS
OF LAST MONTH, PARTICULARLY HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL. I USED THIS
OCCASION TO NOTE THAT DESPITE RUMORS CONCERNING AMBASSADORIAL
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CHANGES, I BELIEVED THAT I WOULD BE STAYING ON FOR THE FORE-

SEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT I WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT WITH FULL AUTHORITY AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. JORGENSEN REPLIED THAT HE WAS PLEASED AND SATISFIED, REMARKING THAT WE HAD ACHIEVED AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

2. ADDRESSING THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION, JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED HIS TRIP TO PORTUGAL HAD BEEN USEFUL. HE FELT SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL FIGHTING OFF DICTATORSHIP. HE BELIEVED THAT THE SOCIALISTS AND THE PPD WERE EVEN STRONGER THAN AT ELECTION TIME AND THAT IT WAS, THEREFORE, POSSIBLE, THOUGH NOT CERTAIN, THAT DEMOCRACY COULD SURVIVE.

3. WHEN I ASKED HIM TO CHARACTERIZE PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, JORGENSEN TERMED HIM A "WEAK, VACILLATING PERSON" CONSTANTLY WAITING FOR THINGS TO IMPROVE. HE FELT THAT COSTA GOMES WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE IMPETUOUS OTELO DO CARVALHO, "A CHILD ACTING WITHOUT POLITICAL SENSE", ON THE ONE HAND AND VASCO GONCALVES, "ALMOST A COMMUNIST AND SUPPORTED BY THEM" ON THE OTHER. NEVERTHELESS, COSTA GOMES HAD AT LEAST VERBALLY AGREED WITH JORGENSEN THAT THE PORTUGAL OF THE FUTURE SHOULD INCLUDE FOUR BASIC ELEMENTS: FREE PRESS, FREE POLITICAL PARTIES, FREE LABOR UNIONS AND A PLURALISTIC-TYPE SOCIETY.

4. JORGENSEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT SOARES AND BALSIMAO APPEARED TO BE GAINING IN STRENGTH, A FACT WHICH SHOULD IN TURN STRENGTHEN COSTA GOMES' HAND. JORGENSEN FELT THAT EVENTUALLY THE MFA WOULD SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT MELO AUTUNES MIGHT BE THE ONE TO LEAD SUCH A MOVE.

5. I THEN ASKED PRIMIN JORGENSEN IF HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO SPEAK IN LISBON AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL THE SOCIALIST LEADERS WHO HAD ATTENDED THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE. JOREGENSEN REPLIED THAT HE HAD HAD A SORT OF "SPIRITUAL MANDATE" TO REPRESENT THE 12 "DEMOCRATIC" PARTIES OF STOCKHOLM AND THAT THIS FACT HAD NOT ONLY BEEN APPRECIATED BY SOARES BUT ALSO HAD BEEN WIDELY NOTED IN THE PORTUGUESE PRESS. ON HIS RETURN JORGENSEN HAD BEEN TELEPHONED BY WILLY BRANDT AND HAD ALSO CONFIDENTIAL

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CHECKED IN WITH PALME AND THE OTHER NORDIC LEADERS.

6. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION ABOUT PLANS FOR SENDING MONEY TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, JORGENSEN NOTED THAT PORTUGUESE LAW PREVENT SUCH DONATIONS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD TOLD A LISBON PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NOT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES ABIDED BY THESE RESTRICTIONS. JORGENSEN WENT ON TO SHOW CERTAIN IRRITATION WITH THE VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY DANISH COMMUNIST LEADER NORLUND

WHO HAD USED PORTUGUESE MEDIA TO ATTACK JORGENSEN PERSONALLY.

7. IN SUMMARY, JORGENSEN CONCLUDED THAT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS "DANGEROUS" BUT THAT EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS LIKE HIMSELF COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE BY EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL. I TOLD JORGENSEN I THOUGHT HIS TRIP HAD CERTAINLY BEEN BENEFICIAL IN THAT REGARD.

8. TURNING TO HELSINKI, I ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT HIS IMPRESSION OF CSCE. HE REPLIED WITH A SMILE THAT HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TO CARRY OUT THE TENETS OF THE CONFERENCE BY INSISTING IN PORTUGAL THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS BE ALLOWED TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS FREELY. JORGENSEN WENT ON THEN TO PRAISE PRESIDENT FORD'S HELSINKI SPEECH, NOTING THAT IT WAS THE "BEST-FORMULATED" OF ALL SPEECHES MADE THERE.

9. FINALLY, I ASKED JORGENSEN IF OTHER DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE STOCKHOLM SOCIALIST PARLEY IN ADDITION TO THOSE ON PORTUGAL. HE REPLIED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCERNED ISRAEL. RABIN HAD GIVEN A "SHORT, REALISTIC SPEECH", AND ALL PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE SUSPENDED FROM THE UN. IN THIS REGARD, JORGENSEN NOTED THAT IN HELSINKI HE HAD TALKED TO CZECH, YUGOSLAV AND EAST GERMAN LEADERS, ALL OF WHOM HAD AGREED WITH DANES ON POLICY OF UNIVERSALITY, EVEN THOUGH THEY OPPOSED ISRAEL IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT.

10. STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE HAD ALSO ANALYZED ECONOMIC POLICY IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND HAD CONCLUDED THAT UNBALANCED ECONOMIC POLICY IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD CONCLUDED THAT UNBALANCED BUDGETS WITH MORE MONEY GOING TO PUBLIC SECTOR WOULD BE THE QUICKEST WAY TO PRIME PUMP AND TURN RECESSION AROUND.
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JORGENSEN NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON AUGUST 29 DURING BRIEF BILATERAL TALK IN THE DANISH BORDER TOWN OF SONDERBERG.

11. COMMENT: I FOUND PRIME MINISTER TO BE FRIENDLY, FORTHRIGHT AND SELF-ASSURED. HE APPEARS TO FEEL THAT HE HAS SUPPORT OF COUNTRY FOR BOTH HIS FOREIGN POLICY AND HIS DOMESTIC LINE ON THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HIS TRIP TO LISBON AS UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS HAS GIVEN HIM NEW CONFIDENCE AND GAINED HIM RESPECT WITHIN DENMARK OF ALL SECTORS OF OPINION EXCEPT COMMUNISTS. GIVEN HIS PARAPATETIC INCLINATIONS AND NUMEROUS CONFERENCES WITH OTHER EUROPEAN LEADERS, I PLAN TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM, AS I BELIEVE HE CAN BE A VALUABLE ASSET TO US IN SUPPORT OF OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES.

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